Auditor to that of a Superintendent by practically abolishing the former. These proposals, involving, as they do, an increase in expenditure of Rs. 2,310 in the coming year, may perhaps require a word of explanation. Ever since 1101 the Comptroller of Accounts has been repeatedly bringing to the notice of the Government that for want of adequate number of hands the work in his office was becoming inefficient due to hasty, delayed audit and still more hasty supervision, where accuracy, promptitude and system are most essential. To quote his own words in a communication which he addressed to the Government lately:—'As matters now stand, I regret that I have to confess that with all my endeavours the condition of my office is anything but satisfactory. Many of the sections are in heavy arrears; the accounts are ready only very late; review work is being got on very unsatisfactorily. I am getting quite apprehensive of such a state of affairs leading, as it may one day, tosuch unfortunate incidents as the non-detection of serious irregularities, misappropriations, defalcations, &c,'. Such a state of affairs in any office required immediate remedy; the more so in the Account Office, which has always to be maintained at a high level of efficiency. The Special Finance Committee which examined the working of the office has remarked that the additional hands proposed are 'by no means excessive'. In these circumstances it is proposed to strengthen the establishment from 1st Chingam 1104 on the lines already ind cated.

Law and Justice.—Provision is made for the continuance of the Additional District Judge at Trichur and his staff for the whole year. There are no other items calling for any explanation.

Education.—I have nothing to explain this year under the head. The budget estimate is prepared more or less on the lines of the revised estimate of the current year and is fixed at Rs. 13,09,300,thus showing a decrease of Rs. 1,800 as compared with the latter. The decrease is only apparent and not real, since the expenditure incurred under this head for the special benefit of the depressed classes has been transferred to a new head of expenditure 'Uplift of the Depressed Classes'. Had it not been for this transfer, the budget estimate under 'Education' would have exceeded the revised estimate by nearly Rs. 40,000. Especially under 'Primary Education' larger provisions have been made under 'Grants-in-aid' to meet the growing demands of the situation.

Medical.—The main features of the Medical budget are the provision made for clearing off the old arrears finally, the additional staff ofnurses and servants proposed to be entertained next

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year mainly for the requirements of the pay and isolation wards under construction, the provision made for sending a senior female Sub-Assistant Surgeon for higher studies in England and the opening of more rural dispensaries. I had referred to in detail last year how arrears came to accrue under 'Cost of medicines' and how the liabilities came to be carried over from year to year. A sum of Rs. 20.000 was provided in the current year for part payment of the liabilities, and it is proposed to wipe off the liabilities in the coming year by making a provision of Rs. 25,000 towards the same under 'Cost of medicines.' Under 'Temporary Establishment' provision has been made for the entertainment of 8 additional nurses, 6 ward attendants and 6 thotties mainly in view of the fact that the pay wards and isolation wards which are now in the course of construction, are expected to be ready for use next year. Besides the stipendiary at Madras now receiving Rs. 600 per annum, a senior female Sub Assistant Surgeon is proposed to be sent to England for higher medical studies with a scholarship of £ 200 per annum and the cost of passage is to be borne by the Government. The total expenditure is thus expected to come to Rs. 3,600. Provision has also been made for opening two more rural dispensaries.

Sanitation and Conservancy.—The budget estimate under 'Sanitation and Conservancy' which is fixed at Rs. 44,800 is conspicuous this year by the absence of any provision as 'Contribution to Municipal Councils.' It has been more than once made clear to this House that it was the firm conviction of the Government that the Municipalities, having passed the infant stage when active help and guidance of the Government were necessary, should be able to stand on their own legs. An experiment is made in this direction this year by the withdrawal of the usual contribution. During the current year a scheme for the improvement of the Ernakulam Town, which has great possibilities before it with the development of the Cochin Harbour, but which is still very backward in the amenities of an improved town, has been drawn up by Dr. Dann—the Town Expert. The scheme is under the consideration of the Goverament. Meanwhile an increased provision of Rs. 7,000 has been made for the Ernakulam Town Improvement works in 1104 under State General—Sanitation.

I cannot close this section without referring to the sad inroad of plague into the very heart of the State. It is not possible to state with any degree of exactitude what expenditure we will have to incur under 'Prevention of Epidemics' to combat this fell disease. When the preliminary edition of the budget was

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